

# **Analysis of the Governor's Budget Presentation January 2009**



**Prepared by Virginia Education Association**

## Complication: Rhetoric vs. Reality

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- Most news articles and editorials cite \$340 million in cuts to K-12
- In reality, according to the Governor's Budget Director the cuts for next year are \$595 million.

## The Cuts in Kaine's Budget are Permanent

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- There are ways to cut funding temporarily, ensuring that when the recession ends that education will revert to previous levels, but Kaine's cuts are permanent. They alter the Standards of Quality.



## State Support for 13,000 Support Positions Eliminated!

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- The Governor claims that cutting state funding for 13,000 support positions will not harm the classroom.
- We need your help in detailing how this is wrong.
- We have both emailed and provided hard copy today of the positions and the number cut by locality.

# What Is Our Message?

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- Minimize cuts to K-12
- Make the cuts temporary

# What are we doing now?

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- Speaking at Regional Budget Hearings
- Coalescing, Reaching Out
- Letter to Legislators now on Web Site

[www.veanea.org](http://www.veanea.org)

- Petitions now on Web Sites

[www.vastudents.org](http://www.vastudents.org)

- Lobbying House and Senate

# The Public Is With Us?

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## January 7<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Education Poll

- 68% of Virginians are willing to pay more in taxes to keep public schools at current funding level.
- Seven-in-ten Virginians believe that the amount of money spent on the schools affects education quality a great deal or quite a lot.
- Seven-in-ten believe raising class size would hurt the quality of education.

# Do We Have A Chance?

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- The Governor has proposed.
- The General Assembly will dispose.
- To win we need the Senate.
- Our chance of winning depends on local action to pressure legislators and a protracted budget battle between the House and Senate.

# Definition of Success

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- Reduce the cuts.
- Make the cuts temporary.